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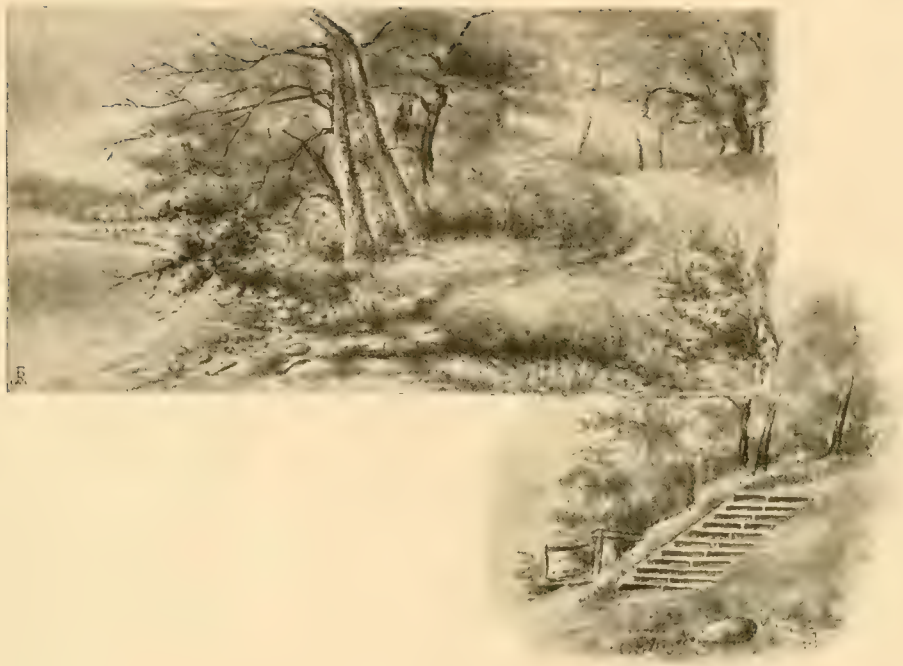

Geneva, nursling of the
fragrant hills,
That keep thee like a babe
at mother's breast,
And feed thee from their
pure and secret rills,
And hold thee at thy play,
or hush to rest;

With gladness beaming, filled with Nature's joys,
  With dimpled smiles or rippling laughter graced,
In silence sleeping, or elate with noise
  Of chattering waves by wind-swept shores embraced;

Beneath the light of stars,
or moon, or sun,
In mimic storm, or lulled in
peace profound,

Each happy change
from grace to grace doth run,
And endless beauty
girdles thee around.

One gracious heaven, silver,
gold and blue,
Bends o'er thy face with
benediction sweet;
And multiplied in every
form and hue,
Like God in souls, is mirrored
back complete.

Not thine the grandeur of the
boisterous seas—
The place of heroes loving
storm and strife:
But there is home-like peace
beneath thy trees,
Where sacred mothers and
sweet babes find life.

And on thy grassy banks made cool with shade
Old age may rest, and happy lovers stray,
And all the woodland pets of naught afraid,
Rejoice in chorus at thy perfect day.

Oh, loveliest in a land of
lovely lakes;
Clothed in thy wondrous robe
of changeful light,

Thy beauty is a spell; yet
darkness makes
Not less the mystic beauty
of thy night.

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